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Surveys of Baltic Coastal Building Sites

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1. An expedition to conduct survey operations in the whole area of Ruegen Island by the East German Staatliche Geologische Kommission (State Geological Commission) started on 10 January 1953. Other survey operations covering the coastal areas between Rostock and Stralsund and the area of Usedom Island by two teams each consisting of one geologist, preferably a specialist in flat country researches, one technical geologist, one hydrogeologist, two collectors and one measuring group and each equipped with a IFA F 9-type special truck were planned for the following months. The target date for completion of the operations was set for the end of June 1953.
2. An expert opinion on the building ground conditions in the coast area near Sassnitz, demanded from the State Geological Commission, determined that the load factor of the ground was 1.2 kilograms per square centimeter, equivalent to 17.5 lbs.-sq. in. The report also included a hydrological analysis for deep foundations, with a basement room of about 6 meters with a foundation load of about 2 kilograms per square centimeters (equivalent to 28.5 lbs. per sq. in. serving as a basis for calculations. An examination of the bottom of the beach, down to a depth of 6 meters, which had been prepared by the Sea Police in conjunction with the Maritime Hydrographical Service and the Geological Commission showed that the foundation ditches had to be drained, and that about two thirds of the upper layers of the bottom of the beach consisted of fine and super-fine sands (alluvial sands) top of medium and coarse gravel, with boulders here and there. Therefore, easy dredging and comparatively plain foundations were possible.
3. The State Geological Commission received orders from the Ministry of State Security to examine as a building ground an area approximately 930 meters west of the national road at the entrance to the town of Sassnitz, where pile foundations were planned with a maximum pile load of 1.8 kilograms per square centimeter, equivalent to 26.5 lbs per sq. in. The examination showed the suitability of the ground. On account of the heavy layers of fine sand, the Geological Commission suggested, however, that foundation plates be used to obtain a load factor of 0.8 to 0.9 kilograms per square centimeter, or between 0.56 to 0.63 lbs per sq. in. In February 1953, the Geological Commission was asked by the Sea Police for an expert opinion on a

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similar area near Altefaehr, opposite Stralsund. These surveys were not completed by early February 1953.

4. A special staff of the technical geological section of the State Geological Commission was set up in Rostock on orders of the Ministry of Interior. Dr. Heck (fnu), who previously held a post at the Rostock branch office of the Geological Commission, was appointed head of this staff, which handled minor problems in the coast area without using ordinary official channels. All major matters remained, however, under the jurisdiction of the central office of the State Geological Commission in Berlin and of the local laboratory, which was headed by Dr. Joehler (fnu).
5. In addition to the operations carried out on orders of the State Geological Commission, geophysical precision measurements were also carried out on the coast by the geophysical service in Leipzig, to obtain more detailed information on the character of certain coarse structures, which seemed to indicate the existence of oil. It was planned to drill a bore-hole, 1,000 meters deep, in search of rock oil near Thiessow on Ruegen Island in April 1953, and to make a second boring operation on Greifswalder Oie in about mid-1953. The quarantine station on Greifswalder Oie was to be transferred.

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1.   Comment. It is believed that the transfer of the quarantine station from Greifswalder Oie is not because of rock oil boring, since another report indicated that a Sea Police prison camp was located there.

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